

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 03719 012320Z

72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-15 ACDA-19 MC-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 DRC-01 /139 W

----- 116036

R 012255Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3835

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3719

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, ES

SUBJ: ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY ON GOES PURCHASE OF ISRAELI JETS

REF: A. SAN SALVADOR 3641; B. DAO IR 6 829 0032 73

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. LOCAL REACTION TO GOES PURCHASE OF ISRAELI AIRCRAFT REMAINS GENERALLY LOW KEY ALTHOUGH THERE ARE FRAGMENTARY INDICATIONS THAT IT MAY HAVE ALREADY HAD SOME IMPACT ON THE HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. THE LOCAL PRESS HAS NOW OFFERED A FEW EDITORIAL COMMENTS. DIARIO LATINO SEPTEMBER 26 CARRIED LENGTHY EDITORIAL SUPPORTING THE JET ACQUISITION AS NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE AND EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THIS ROUTINE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WOULD NOT BE MISCONTRUED BY EL SALVADOR'S CENTRAL AMERICAN NEIGHBORS. CONSERVATIVE DIARIO DE HOY OCTOBER 1 NOTES ADVERSE REACTION TO AIRCRAFT PURCHASE IN COSTA RICA AND HONDURAS. PREDICTABLY, THE PEPR BLAMES COSTA RICAN CRITICISM ON ANTI-MILITARY LEFTIST ELEMENTS WHO, WHILE QUICK TO CRITICIZE EL SALVADOR, IGNORE CUBA'S LARGE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 03719 012320Z

MILITARY BUILDUP. AS TO HONDURAS, THE PAPER ADMITS THAT

THE GOH COULD VIEW THIS AS A SECURITY THREAT OR AS A TACTIC TO PRESSURE THEM AT THE MEXICO TALKS. THE PAPER COUNTERS, HOWEVER, THAT HONDURAS MAINTAINS A SECRET MILITARY TRAINING CAMP ON THE NORTH COAST, STAFFED WITH FOREIGN ADVISERS, AND HAS OBTAINED BOMBERS AS WELL AS FIGHTERS WHICH GIVES IT THE CAPABILITY OF SURPRISE ATTACK AGAINST ANY CENTRAL AMERICAN CAPITAL. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT SALVADORAN AIRCRAFT ARE FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES ONLY AND THAT HONDURAS HAS NOTHING TO FEAR.

2. CENTRAL AMERICAN NEWS AGENCY REPORT SEPTEMBER 27 DATED TEGUCIGALPA QUOTES FONMIN BATRES AS STATING THAT NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT BE THE SAME WHEN THE OTHER PARTY ARMS ITSELF AT THE SAME TIME THAT SERIOUS PEACE PROPOSALS ARE BEING CONSIDERED. BATRES ALSO CONTENTS THAT "NO PRESSURE TACTICS CAN VERY THE POSITION OF HONDURAS" AND CALLS FOR NATIONAL UNITY IN SUPPORT OF HONDURAS' DEMANDS. ALSO ON THE HONDURAN SIDE, REF B REPORTS MEETING BETWEEN PRES ARANA AND LOPEZ ARELLANO SEPTEMBER 22 AT WHICH LOPEZ, COMMENTING ON GOES AIRCRAFT ACQUISITION, COMPLAINED THAT MOLINA IS "PLAYING DIRTY". LOPEZ ALLEGEDLY TOLD ARANA THAT AS A RESULT HE WOULD NOT MEET WITH MOLINA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. CONCEIVABLY, THIS COULD EXPLAIN WHY SECRET SUMMIT OF THREE PRESIDENTS TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR SEPT 25 (HHE-6230) APPARENTLY WAS NOT HELD.

3. REACTION FROM LOCAL POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS CONTINUES MIXED. AS NOTED IN REFERENCE DAO REPORT, CHIEF OF STAFF COL. RODRIGUEZ DID NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY DISTRESSED ABOUT POSSIBLE IMPACT OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OR THE FACT THAT ILACAME FROM A USG SOURCE. HOWEVER, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER "CHACHI" GUERRERO, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE SALVADORAN BORDER COMMISSION, TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE WAS WORRIED THAT THE JET PURCHASE WOULD EITHER 1) WEAKEN LOPEZ' ABILITY TO NEGOTIATE WITH EL SALVADOR OR 2) BE USED BY HONDURAS AS AN EXCUSE TO BREAK OFF TALKS WITH EL SALVADOR SHOULD IT FIND THAT IT COULD MEET ITS NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES. MOSKOWITZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANS03719
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MOSKOWITZ
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731059/aaaabrlu.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. SAN SALVADOR 3641; B. DAO IR 6 82, 9 0032 73
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by smithrj>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY ON GOES PURCHASE OF ISRAELI JETS
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, ES
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005